CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1553
31 August 1998

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LETTER DATED 28 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF RESOLUTION 1998/30 ENTITLED "INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES", ADOPTED (WITHOUT A VOTE) BY THE 50TH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON 26 AUGUST 1998

With reference to my intervention dated 27 August 1998, please find enclosed Resolution 1998/30 entitled "Injurious effects of anti-personnel landmines" which was adopted on 26 August 1998 by the Commission on Human Rights/Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Fiftieth session.

I kindly request you to give the necessary instructions to circulate the said resolution as a document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Mounir Zahran
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.98-63381

1998/30. Injurious effects of anti-personnel landmines

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Aware that anti-personnel landmines inflict harm on human beings and in the process cause grave violations of human rights, in particular the right to life,

Recalling its resolutions 1995/24 of 24 August 1995, 1996/15 of 23 August 1996 and 1997/33 of 23 August 1998 in which it declared itself in favour of a total ban of the production, marketing and use of these weapons,

Stressing the importance of assisting the victims of such weapons as well as ensuring that those which have been deployed are completely destroyed,

Stressing also the importance for the Sub-Commission to follow up this issue in order to guarantee the full respect and implementation of all relevant legal instruments,

Taking note with satisfaction of the establishment of zones free of anti-personnel landmines in the Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay) and in Bolivia and Chile,

Welcoming the award of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines,

Welcoming also the adoption of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction in December 1997 and its signature by almost one hundred and thirty countries, and recalling that the Convention is to enter into force after forty countries have ratified it,

Noting with satisfaction that thirty-two countries have already ratified the Convention,

Regretting the new deployment of landmines in zones of armed conflict despite all warnings against their deployment and knowledge of the horror they cause to their innocent victims, especially children and other vulnerable groups,

Bearing in mind that landmines cause death, maiming and psychological damage to their victims, are a deterrent to development and harm the environment,

Underscoring the continuous threat that old and abandoned landmines pose to human lives as well as their detrimental effects for development efforts,

Stressing the urgency for mine clearance in the affected zones in order that civilians in such zones can fully enjoy their human rights,

Regretting the lack of sufficient financial resources to increase mine clearance and medical assistance for victims of anti-personnel landmines,

1. Reaffirms its support for a total ban on the production, stockpiling, transfer and use of landmines, as well as the destruction of the existing mines, as a means to protect basic human rights and in particular the right to life;

2. Urges States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and all the Protocols thereto, including Protocol II on Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as Amended on 3 May 1996;

3. Strongly urges all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction adopted in Ottawa in December 1997;

4. Urges all States to modify their legislation where necessary in accordance with the wording of the Ottawa Convention, in full respect of its articles and spirit, including the clause prohibiting any reservations to the Convention;

5. Urges all countries responsible for the laying of anti-personnel landmines in foreign territoreis to assume full responsibility for the necessary mine-clearance operations and to cooperate with the host countries for this purpose in every possible way, in particular developing countries;

6. Underlines the importance for non-State actors also to renounce the use of anti-personnel landmines;

7. Encourages Member States to continue the process of establishing regional and subregional zones free of anti-personnel landmines;

8. Reiterates its request to Governments and the international community to pursue an overall policy of prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of landmines as well as to multiply their efforts in mine-clearance programmes in the affected zones and their aid to victims of anti-personnel landmines;

9. Again encourages Governments, organizations and individuals that can do so to respond favourably to the request for voluntary contributions to the United Nations mine-clearance programme, or to increase existing contributions;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to reiterate to all Governments, in particular those of States which in the past have laid anti-personnel landmines in or sold them to other States, the Sub-Commission's appeal for contributions to the mine-clearance programme and the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance established in 1994;

11. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-first session under the same agenda item and to establish the necessary measures to ensure the follow-up and implementation of international humanitarian law and treaties in order that everyone may fully enjoy all their human rights.

35th meeting
26 August 1998

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. XIV.]